

OUR MISSION

is to provide child protective social services to Chester County children and their families so they can live and thrive in safe, stable, permanent homes.



Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families

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Childline
(report child abuse)
800-932-0313



Chester County Commissioners

5/2017

Chester County Department of

family connections

prevention

counseling

home based services

kinship

Family is not an **important thing**. It's **everything**.

—Michael J. Fox

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Assessment Services

- Provide information and referrals to appropriate community resources and/or department services
- Assess risk and safety of children

Prevention/Intervention

- Assist families with concerns for their children's school attendance
- Help families with concerns parenting their teenagers

Options Counseling

- Voluntary services to explore alternatives for expectant parents concerning their expected child.

In Home Services

- Caseworker provides ongoing services to meet the family's needs and continues to assess risk and safety of children. For example: *Family counseling, Development of positive parenting skills, Life skills education.*

Family Connections

Family Finding

Every child needs lifelong permanent connections:

- Create more options for support and planning for the child/family by engaging family members and others
- Engage family members and others important to the child/family and bring them together to address the lifelong need for support and affection.

Family Group Decision Making

- Strength-based, culturally sensitive family engagement practice
- Family members come together and share strengths, concerns and community resources
- Families meet privately to develop a plan to care for their children and support the family system.

Foster Care Services

Kinship Family Care Services

- Place children with family members when separation is required to keep the child safe.
- Family members are able to become foster parents through a training and home study process
- Supportive services provided to families
- Children have the potential to remain with family when reunification is not possible.

Foster Family Services

- Recruit, train and support foster families to provide a temporary loving and supportive family environment for children who cannot remain at home.

Purchased Placement Services

Purchased Foster Care

- Foster homes for children provided by other foster care agencies including specialized homes to address medical or behavioral concerns.

Group Homes/Residential Programs

- Program options to handle children with a range of medical or behavioral concerns.

Independent Living Services

- Services for adolescents who are/were in placement at age 16 years and older to assist with independent living skills.

Reunification Services

Assisting families to reunify with their children based on the beliefs that:

- The family is the fundamental resource for the nurturing of children
- Children have a right to be with their own families
- Parents should be supported in their efforts to care for their children in ways that assure the safety and well-being of the children

Adoption Services

Pre-Adoption Services:

- Recruiting permanent, supportive homes for children
- Supporting the adoptive/kinship family through the adoption process
- Counseling for adoptive parents and children concerning pre-adoptive issues

Post Adoption Services:

- Facilitate support groups for all birth and adoptive family members
- Provide limited in-home counseling services for post-adoption concerns
- Provide information and search for birth parents, birth relatives and adoptees

The family is seen as the primary source for the care and nurturing of children by providing for the physical, emotional, and economic well being of the child.